



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

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Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter.

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING - REVISED

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott and Councilor Streeter

Members Absent: Councilor Bartinik, Jr. and Councilor Sheets

City: Mayor Popp, Duarte, Galbraith, Popp, and Duffy.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, and Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent.

3. NEW BUSINESS

2007-0010

Joint Meeting with City Council (2007 Standing Referral)

Discussed

Discussed Thames Street rehabilitation. Per a question from D. Popp, Mr. Oefinger said the funding is ready to start, and there is a draft scope of services from the consultant. Mark mentioned needing a committee of oversight. A resolution by both councils should be prepared, and that the committee should include one each from the City and Town Planning Commissions and the Economic Development Commission. This was agreed by consensus by both councils, acting here in committee.

Town Property on Buddington Road was discussed. Mayor Watson reviewed briefly a long history on this issue, including changing preferences as to passive recreation. There was a prior agreement years ago to convey the land for around \$19,000, but the check was not deposited, and the sale did not get completed. Mr. O'Beirne mentioned the possible desirability of parklets on the Buddington Road property if it was to be retained by the Town. Ms. Bond said she would like to know the fair market value of the parcels sought to be transferred to the City utilities. Discussion indicated that the existing fence would be moved outward if the property is conveyed. City members stated that their restriction of recreational access is about the security of the water supply, as that is the reservoir that they draw from.

Town Councilors raised the periodic or quarterly access allowed to Groton Utilities' reservoirs up in Ledyard and expressed the desire that it would continue. It was agreed that this subject would be resumed at the next joint meeting, at which time more value data might be available. However, discussion continued, and Oefinger said that the current assessment of the land is \$70,700, indicating a market value of \$100,100, but it is not likely to be worth that, because it is not suitable for a house. Ms. Bond asked, how can we know what price we should get for the sake of our taxpayers' interests.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that the parcels be sold for a total combined price of \$25,000.

The motion carried 5 votes in favor, 2 opposed (Bond, O'Beirne).

There was discussion of the composition of a committee on the re-use of Groton Heights School. Mr. Oefinger distributed a resolution for the appointment of the committee. The resolution was slightly modified from what had been approved by the Committee of the Whole at its regular meeting on September 11. The revised motion was unanimously recommended for a resolution by consensus.

There was a brief discussion of using street quality evaluations in the City of Groton that would be parallel to that done for the Town.

2006-0100 Thames Street Rehabilitation Study

Discussed

See 9/18/07 Committee of the Whole discussion under 2007-0010 Joint Meeting with City Council (2007 Standing Referral)

2007-0140 Town Property at Buddington/Old Buddington Roads

Recommended for a Resolution

See 9/18/07 Committee of the Whole discussion under 2007-0010 Joint Meeting with City Council (2007 Standing Referral)

2007-0191 Reuse of Groton Heights School

Discussed

See 9/18/07 Committee of the Whole discussion under 2007-0010 Joint Meeting with City Council (2007 Standing Referral)

4. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.